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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STORMWATER STAFF NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

Eleven staff members of the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) have successfully completed the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) program through the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

New CFMs include: Sara Agahi, Watershed Planner; Tim Cook, Senior Environmental Inspector; Perry Danler, Senior Civil Engineer; Joe Hmieski, Wetlands Specialist; Ward Miller, Executive Director; Jason Obergfell, Watershed Engineer; Susan Vancil, Public Information Coordinator; Mike Warner, Chief Engineer; Patty Werner, Watershed Planner; Glenn Westman, Wetland Specialist; Sean Wiedel, Watershed Planner; and, Tony Wolff, Watershed Engineer. Minal Steineman, Permit Engineer is already a CFM.

The 120-question, closed book CFM exam covered floodplain mapping, requirements and standards of the National Flood Insurance Program, requirements of the State of Illinois' floodplain management program and administrative procedures to make floodplain

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management work at the community level.

Nationally, one-third of those who have tried have failed the test. The CFM program has been operating for about two years and there are only 85 other CFMs in the state.

The benefits of becoming a CFM include:

- Being recognized for one's professional capabilities by a national program.
- Motivation for continuing education since continued certification relies on continuing education.
- Employers can count on CFMs to be knowledgeable about floodplain management.

"Lake County citizens, local government officials and elected officials are our customers. We will continue to provide the highest level of professional, knowledgeable service to our customers. The national CFM program has formally acknowledged the level of state-of-the-art expertise our customers have relied on and should continue to expect. We will strive to set a good example and encourage our partners to consider becoming Certified Floodplain Managers," said Ward Miller, SMC Executive Director.